

WORKERS WORLD

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Supreme Court denies review Struggle intensifies TO FREE MUMIA

By Betsey Piette

Reaction to the Supreme Court's denial on April 6 of a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal based on charges of racism in his 1982 court proceedings was swift and wide-spread.

Members of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and their supporters quickly took to the internet and airwaves to get out word about the impact of this decision and call for meetings to organize the next stage in the struggle to win justice for this world-renowned political prisoner still sitting on Pennsylvania's death row.

Regular programming at WBAI New York was preempted on April 9 for a special broadcast featuring Pam Africa, coordinator of ICFFMAJ; Linn Washington Jr., Philadelphia Tribune columnist and Temple University professor of journalism; and Vincent Southerland, assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Hosted by Suzanne Ross of the N.Y. Free Mumia Coalition, the program also aired a live interview with Abu-Jamal by Noelle Hanrahan of the Prison Radio Project. (www.prisonradio.org)

Asked about the Supreme Court's denial of his appeal, Abu-Jamal stated, "If it is the Batson issue, then it shows that precedent means nothing; that the law is politics by other means; and that the Constitution means nothing; that a fair jury means nothing.

"It's been three decades. When I was at the pre-trial hearing before Judge Sabo and he denied the motion, I knew then that he wasn't working with the Constitution. It did surprise me. It really shocked me because I'd read the cases, and I knew what the law was.

"I knew what the law books said the law was. I learned then that they're not going by that kind of law and apparently they're not going by that kind of law now.



If you read Batson and you read my case it's almost as if you're in two different universes, and in fact you are."

Abu-Jamal continued, "There have always been different rules for Black people. If you read Batson, what will surprise people who have never done so, is it has nothing to do with the accused, the defendant, the personal trial. Batson, in its own terms, says it protects the rights of those people who are allegedly American citizens who are denied the right to serve as jurors.

"That's what it says. But how does it do that when it allows people to be removed after Batson became law for spurious reasons? Batson can be bested and beaten by exactly the way the D.A. said it could—by lying—and getting up and saying, 'No, we didn't have any racist reason.' Listen to the D.A. training video tape by Jack McMann [1986] and if that doesn't tell you all you need to know you're either deaf, dumb or blind."

The 'Mumia exception'

Vincent Southerland explained what the Supreme Court's decision was about—that Abu-Jamal was challenging the discriminatory selection of jurors during his 1982 trial and that he was basing that challenge on a number of facts that happened during the course of that trial.

Southerland said, "Before a trial begins, both the defense and prosecutor have an opportunity to choose jurors they feel would be fair and impartial. Both have

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PENTAGON TARGETS AFRICA

Why Somalis seize ships

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

After the execution of three Somalis and the wounding and capturing of another in the Indian Ocean on April 12, a leader of the so-called pirates vowed to avenge the deaths of these youth who held the U.S. captain of a cargo vessel known as the Maersk Alabama for five days. Captain Richard Phillips was released while the U.S. military and the corporate media hailed the killings of the Somalis, saying the actions were justified.

The Maersk Alabama was never taken over by the Somalis, even though the captain remained in the custody of the pirates for five days. The captain was not harmed during the five-day standoff, and the ship was later docked at the port of Mombasa in the East African nation of Kenya.

Abdi Garad, a spokesperson for the group of Somalis that attempted to seize

the Danish-owned 17,000-ton Maersk Alabama about 450 kilometers off the coast, told the French Press Agency (AFP) on April 13 from the eastern coastal town of Eyl, "The American liars have killed our friends after they agreed to free the hostage without ransom. But I tell you that this matter will lead to retaliation, and we will hunt down particularly American citizens travelling our waters."

Garad went on to say, "We will intensify our attacks even reaching very far away from Somalia waters and next time we get American citizens ... they [should] expect no mercy from us." Garad claimed that after dropping the ransom demand, the Somalis had asked that Captain Phillips be moved to a Greek ship held by the group.

Jamac Habeb, a 30-year-old Somali from the town of Eyl, stated in Inside Somalia on April 13, "From now on, if we capture foreign ships and their respec-

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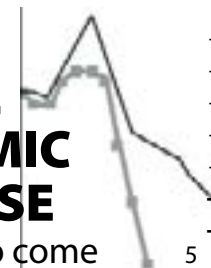
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Yes to
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May Day Rally initiated by the May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights. Meetings held every 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Solidarity Center, 55 W. 17th St, 5th Fl., between 5th & 6th Ave. To endorse & get involved call 212.561.1744 or visit www.may1.info or email may1@leftshift.org.

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GARY SCHAEFER

a worker who fought racism, imperialism

By Sharon Eolis and Sue Davis

Gary Schaefer came to Youth Against War & Fascism, the youth group of Workers World Party, in 1968, a tumultuous time when the Black liberation and anti-imperialist struggles were on the rise. The Vietnamese led by Ho Chi Minh were in the process of driving out the U.S. invaders, while the Black Panther Party and the Young Lords were organizing in the oppressed communities. Many were attracted to YAWF's anti-war militancy, but what was unusual about Gary, during this period, was that he was an anti-racist worker.

“Gary was born into a union family, and he stayed true to unionism and to his class his entire life. Gary was always a guy you could depend upon,” Bill Kaessinger told Workers World. Kaessinger worked with Gary in Teamsters Local 10 at RCA Communications, where Gary was a shop steward. He remembered the valuable role Gary played in strikes in 1966 and 1976. He was “always available and always agreeable to do whatever was asked of him,” whether serving as a picket captain or running the strike headquarters.

Gary may have inherited unionism from his father, Raymond Schaefer, who was Secretary/Treasurer of Local 10, but he learned about the importance of fighting racism and the need for political activism from his mother, Veronica Schaefer. He talked about attending anti-racist activities and anti-nuclear SANE marches in the 1950s with her.

In the early 1970s YAWF Women set up a Saturday child care program to enable women to participate in political activity. Gary was proud to be one of the regular childcare providers. When the party set up a committee to do local organizing, Gary was the only shift worker on it, and he was able to bring a worker's consciousness to the discussions. In fact, Sam Marcy, founding chair of the party, noted that Gary came to the party as an anti-racist worker, but after being in the party he became anti-imperialist.

Gary put that into practice during two trips to Cuba, where he defied the U.S. blockade. During the second trip in 2001, he marched in the May Day parade and celebrated his birthday on May 2 by attending the national meeting of the Cuban Federation of Workers. Gary was keenly aware of the many advances in health care and education instituted by the Cuban revolution. That only heightened his desire to overturn U.S. imperialism through a socialist revolution.

Due to personal issues, WW didn't see much of him for about a decade between the early 1980s and early 1990s. But after Gary became sober, of which he was rightly proud, he rejoined the party.

Workers World Party expands in the South

The National Committee of Workers World Party is very happy to announce the formation of the Durham, N.C., branch of Workers World Party. Besides Durham, Party members will be initiating and supporting anti-racist and pro-worker struggles in Raleigh, Chapel Hill and other parts of North Carolina. Email: durham@workers.org for more information.

JOIN US.

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latin@, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed and students. If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

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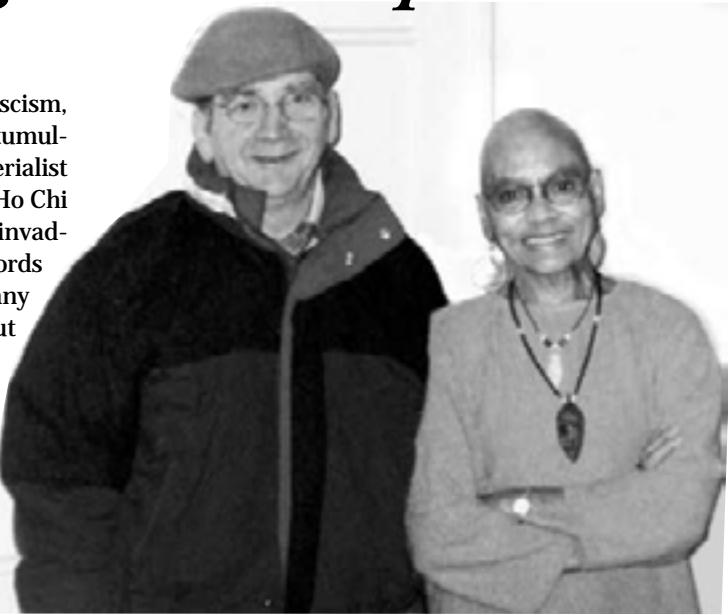
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Gary Schaefer and Consuela Lee, 2000.

WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

One of the key issues that Gary always raised at internal meetings was the need for comrades to be sensitive to one other. Maybe that was because he was so aware of the need for sensitivity on the job or because he himself was sensitive. Although he was born with a disability due to cerebral palsy, his parents always treated him as though he were able-bodied. Gary's fiercely independent spirit helped him weather heart disease and diabetes. Gary died of a heart attack on March 28 in Jersey City, N.J., about a month before his 65th birthday.

A devoted people watcher, Gary was a raconteur. He loved kids, he loved the Knicks and the New York Giants, he loved to dance, and he loved jazz. He was a devoted supporter of Snow Hill Institute for the Performing Arts, located in Alabama's Black Belt. The institute was run for almost 25 years by jazz pianist and composer, Consuela Lee, who encouraged Black children to appreciate their cultural heritage by teaching them to play jazz.

“Some who leave our movement retain in greater or less degree what they felt and learned,” Milt Neidenberg, long-time union leader and founding member of WWP, told Workers World. “Others, like Gary, leave for a time, all the while holding close their communist beliefs and their love for and identification with all those who suffer under capitalism. Gary was welcomed back by all who remembered what a steadfast, hard-working comrade and friend he was. Between then and now Gary validated the memories of those of us who knew him in the past and won the respect and comradely affection of the newer comrades.”

Gary Schaefer, presente!

LABOR RESOLUTION: ‘Free the SF8!’

The following resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council at the regular delegates' meeting on Feb. 9.

Whereas, Herman Bell, Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown, Henry (Hank) Jones, Jalil Muntaqim (Anthony Bottom), Harold Taylor and Francisco Torres, seven men col-

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New School occupiers met with NYPD brutality

By **Dustin Langley**
New York



On April 10, approximately 60 students occupied the New School’s Albert List Academic Building in New York. They demanded the resignation of both President Bob Kerrey and Executive Vice-President James Murtha and an end to tuition hikes. This is the same building protesting students occupied last Dec. 17-19 demanding Kerrey’s resignation.

Kerrey has come under fire since his 2001 appointment as president of the New School because of his role in the February 1969 Thanh Phong massacre in Vietnam. Eyewitnesses have reported that Kerrey participated in the cold-blooded murder of civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, while leading a SEAL team mission.

The New School occupation began at approximately 5 a.m. when students began to lock doors and barricade themselves inside. They unfurled banners off the roof onto the building’s face that read, among other things, “New School Is Now Occupied.”

Police response to the non-violent occupation began when supporters started a picket line in front of the building at 6:30 a.m. The NYPD then moved to shut down the picket.

At about 8 a.m., students appeared on the roof of the occupied building waving red and black flags, and read their demands. The statement read in part:

“The ongoing and growing crisis of capitalism is upending and putting lie to the alleged advantages of the ‘free market.’ That job that was waiting for you has gone overseas or disappeared entirely. The scheme to draft us into perpetual debt peonage through seemingly infinite credit has only piled further contradictions onto a conflict-laden system. The house of cards is falling, revealing a lie we were well aware of all along. Capitalism has shown once again its inability to reasonably provide for humanity and within less than two decades following its proclamation of a so-called ‘end to history.’ Our fight at the New School is one of myriad battles taking place around the planet and the stakes are higher than they have ever been. Within our solidarity lies the foundation of a future as malleable and fantastic as the human potential itself. We have nothing to lose but the radical chains that weigh us down. Let’s unite together in our own struggle at the New School as a part of the greatest historical struggle—to make the world itself anew!”

Kerrey gave the signal to the NYPD to attack the occupiers, releasing a statement saying that his administration “no longer considers [the protesters] students.”

When some of the students attempted to leave the occupied building via a door on 14th Street, cops sprayed pepper spray at them and then slammed the doors shut. This incident was caught on videotape and can be viewed at www.thenewcampus.org or on the NY Times City Blog.

By 11 a.m., hundreds of police were assembled in the area, heavily armed and wearing riot gear. They began to throw tear gas into the building and to randomly assault people supporting the occupiers. Cops grabbed one young woman and shoved her down to the cement as two officers sprayed pepper spray directly into her eyes.

One supporter chanting “shame on you!” in response to the NYPD brutality was attacked by at least six police officers, who held him down, dousing him with pepper spray while repeatedly kicking and punching him. A videotape of this assault can be found on the NY Times blog at The reporter who filmed this beating was also tackled and assaulted by cops.

At around 11:30 a.m., police used bolt cutters to cut the chains the occupiers had used to lock the doors and entered the building. They arrested the remaining 19 students who were occupying the building.

Those arrested were charged with burglary, riot and criminal mischief, and have been suspended from the New School pending an administrative review.

That same evening, hundreds of supporters, including many New School students, assembled in Union Square for a rally and news conference to denounce the NYPD brutality. Following the rally, some began to march toward Bob Kerrey’s home, chanting, “Occupy everything!” and “Anticapitalista!” They had almost reached Kerrey’s posh residence when they were blocked by police who arrested at least two of the protesters.

While the occupation of the Albert List Academic Building was short-lived and focused primarily on campus-related demands, it must be seen in the context of growing opposition and resistance looking toward more confrontational tactics.

One of the statements released from the occupying students said: “There’s good news: all over the world, people are occupying. Universities. Offices. Factories. New York, Chicago, Puerto Rico, England, Scotland, Greece, Japan. We are taking what’s ours, because we’ve had that power all along, and it’s now clearer than ever that it will never be given to us. This is an act of solidarity with everyone in New York City, and every effort anywhere to reclaim space in the name of liberatory change instead of private interests.” □

Elderly Black man victim of killer cops

By **Larry Hales**

According to a Louisiana American Civil Liberties Union complaint, Russell Mills, the white police chief of Homer, La., a small town of 3,800 people 50 miles northeast of Shreveport, said to the Chicago Tribune: “If I see three or four young black men walking down the street, I have to stop them and check their names. I want them to be afraid every time they see the police that they might get arrested. We’re not out there trying to abuse and harass people—we’re trying to protect the law-abiding citizens locked behind their doors in fear.”

This type of openly racist remark is obviously debased, but the police chief’s candor uncovers what many in cities across the U.S. understand to be the modus operandi of police—that groups of Black men, Latinos and Indigenous youths draw immediate suspicion of the police, are profiled and treated as criminals.

Young people of color in general are made to fear walking outside or driving a car because they might be stopped, searched, berated, attacked or possibly killed by police.

Mills’ statement comes in the wake of anger from the latest police killing of a Black person—this time a 73-year-old Black male, Bernard Monroe, who before his death was unable to speak after losing his larynx to cancer.

On Feb. 20, Monroe was hosting a small reunion of family members at his home in Homer. There were more than a dozen people, many of whom congregated outside for a barbecue.

According to reports, two white police drove up. Shawn Monroe, who had been in a vehicle talking to his sister-in-law, then drove into the driveway and went into the house. The two cops followed behind him, chased him out and tasered him in the front yard. Shawn Monroe was not arrested and was released at the scene, as he had

no warrants and had committed no crime.

Witnesses say that Bernard Monroe, Shawn’s father, had a bottle of sports water in his hand as he walked toward his front door. He was shot at through the screen door by Tim Cox, the other cop who was still inside the house.

While the police are saying Bernard Monroe had a weapon in his hand, the witnesses at the scene tell a different story. Marcus Frazier, a neighbor, said: “Mr. Ben didn’t have a gun. I saw that other officer pick up the gun from out of a chair on the porch and put it by him.” (Chicago Tribune)

Denise Nicholson, a family friend who was standing near Bernard Monroe, said: “He just shot him through the screen door. After [Monroe] was on the ground, we kept asking the officer to call an ambulance, but all he did was get on his radio and say, ‘Officer in distress.’” (Hartford Courant)

Witnesses say that the other, yet to be named, cop put on blue latex gloves, picked

up a handgun that Bernard Monroe had on the porch sitting in a chair and while ordering everyone to stand back, placed the gun beside Mr. Monroe’s body.

Marcus Frazier further said of the unnamed cop: “I saw him pick up the gun off the porch. I said, ‘What are you doing?’ The cop told me, ‘Shut the hell up, you don’t know what you’re talking about.’” (Hartford Courant)

Terry Willis, head of the Homer NAACP, said in response to Mills’ remark: “People here are afraid of the police. They harass black people, they stop people for no reason and rough them up without charging them with anything.” (Hartford Courant)

The killing of Bernard Monroe, a retired electrical utility worker, has rightfully drawn the ire of the Homer Black community, which is used to police harassment and economically depressed conditions. The Rev. Al Sharpton recently marched with the angry residents and demanded justice for the family of Bernard Monroe.

LABOR RESOLUTION:

‘Free the SF8!’

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lectively known as the San Francisco 8 defendants [charges having been dropped against Richard O’Neal], are a group of community activists who have devoted their lives to serving their communities and making a difference, and are fathers, grandfathers; and

Whereas, all of these men were members or associates of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense (BPP), a primary target of the FBI’s unconstitutional COINTELPRO program in the late 1960s and early ‘70s, a program designed to disrupt and destroy a number of progressive organizations in many United States cities; and

Whereas, in 1973, three Black activists—including one of the defendants—were arrested in New Orleans and tortured by local police, and interrogated by two San



April 6, 2007 San Francisco protest.

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Francisco police detectives at intervals between the torture, which lasted several days, during which the three men were separated from each other, stripped naked, covered with wool blankets soaked in boiling water, beaten with slapjacks, suffocated with plastic bags tied over their heads, sleep deprived, kicked, beaten, shocked with electric cattle prods on their genitals, anus and under the neck; and

Whereas, statements resulting from the New Orleans torture were used to bring charges in the mid-1970s in several juris-

dictions (including charges for the 1971 killing of a San Francisco police officer); all of these charges were dismissed when the judges learned that these ‘confessions’ had been coerced under torture; and

Whereas, in 2007, after 36 years, the prosecution refiled the charges against the San Francisco 8 based on the same tortured ‘confessions’ illegally obtained in 1973. By September 2007, 6 of the 8 who were eligible for bail were released thanks to the support of their families and supporters, who saw the case as a continua-

tion of the COINTELPRO attack on the Black liberation movement; and

Whereas, this case was reopened based on questionable claims of “new” evidence; and

Whereas, the San Francisco District Attorney’s office declined to renew the prosecution of these community activists, but the California Attorney General imposed the current prosecution of this case, and the jail and court costs of potentially millions of tax dollars to be incurred by the City of San Francisco;

Therefore be it Resolved, that in the name of fairness, justice and human rights—and to express our outrage that this prosecution based on coercion and tortured ‘confessions’ in this 36-year-old case would be allowed to proceed—that the San Francisco Labor Council calls on California Attorney General Jerry Brown to drop all charges against the San Francisco 8 defendants;

And be it further Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to affiliates for concurrence and action. □

Crisis for women in poverty: ‘We must fight back!’

Since 1996 mothers on public assistance have been subject to a five-year limit on benefits. In Ohio the state limit is only three years, during which time recipients must work 30 hours per week for a below-minimum wage. Prisscilla Cooper, CEO and President of Family Connection Center, is leading a fight for a moratorium on time limits. Below are excerpts from her March 25 talk, given at a Cleveland public meeting which also featured Fred Goldstein, author of “Low-Wage Capitalism: Colossus with Feet of Clay.”

While it’s so important for our legislators to bail out the banks with billions of dollars, fund unpopular wars and help their billion-dollar corporations give huge, multimillion-dollar compensation packages to their executives, they sit idly by and watch millions of extremely poor families disintegrate because of welfare reform time limits.

In 1996 then-President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. This changed the welfare program to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. It limited assistance to five years during a person’s lifetime. Even if people work for years and are laid-off or become ill, they will no longer qualify if they have used up their time. The children can receive child-only benefits if the mother is no longer in the home. The child can be placed in another person’s home or foster care and continue to receive benefits. This procedure guarantees that families are torn apart, disregarded and abandoned.

Mothers and their children are thrown into the

streets when they can no longer pay rent. Children go hungry when the only resource is food stamps. Some mothers see giving their children away to relatives, friends and even strangers as their last recourse. More than 22,000 children are with caregivers in Cuyahoga County. The war is not on poverty. The United States is waging a war on poor women and their babies.

Where are all those jobs that mothers were promised? Where are all those elusive jobs that exceptional training would produce? Oh, that’s right; they were talking about community service placements as requirements—[which is really] Slave Labor. These women are not volunteering to work for pennies a month; they are forced to. The fathers are also required to pay the state back for the same benefits the mother is working for. Child support goes to the state, and the mother’s labor is used for free. Welcome to the Real World of the Plantation of the United States of America.

We must hold our legislators responsible for what happens to the extremely poor in our communities. We are our brothers’ keepers. With the massive job losses, the economic crisis is affecting the middle class as well. If we cannot work together to get the policies changed—putting a moratorium on time limits—they too will suffer the breakup of families and the devastation of poverty. We Must Fight Back! Decent Pay for a Day’s Work. No Pay, Then No Work. No Work, Then a Safety Net! Fight for a Moratorium on Time Limits!□

Clinic Access Bill

A gain for reproductive rights

By Kathy Durkin
New York

Imagine that you’re on your way to a medical appointment or your job, and you face a gauntlet of screaming, angry people who are threatening you and trying to stop you from entering the building.

That is what women nationwide have faced for 36 years—since abortion was legalized—as virulent right wingers have used hostile tactics to try to stop them from exercising their fundamental rights to reproductive choice and health services.

A step forward in giving legal protection to women accessing essential reproductive health services at New York City clinics and to their staff occurred on April 2 when the City Council overwhelmingly passed the Clinic Access Bill.

This legislation was the result of pressure and struggle by women’s rights organizations in response to clinic appeals. It was sponsored by civil liberties and reproductive rights groups, including NARAL Pro-Choice NY, National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood, the Reproductive Rights Project of New York Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

This law criminalizes acts that prevent access to or damage a reproductive health care facility or that

physically obstruct anyone from entering a clinic; following or harassing anyone within 15 feet of a facility; or placing anyone in fear of physical harm. It protects providers, clinic workers and clients. (prochoiceyny.org)

The ultra-right has mobilized for many years to try to stop women nationally from exercising their reproductive rights. Harassment, verbal abuse and threats routinely occur outside of clinics. Attacks have escalated to physical assaults on clients and staff, destruction of facilities, even bombings, causing severe injury and death.

Eyewitnesses have reported anti-choice forces in New York blocking clinic doors, “grabbing patients on their way in,” or “knocking staff down on their way to work.” (rhrealitycheck.org)

“Protesters have targeted clinics throughout NYC. They are organized, aggressive and tenacious about intimidating women in need of services,” NOW explained in its pro-legislation testimony. “Going to a clinic ... for family planning services should not [jeopardize] one’s safety or life.” NOW affirmed the right of women in all neighborhoods and of every economic status to access reproductive care. (nownyc.org)

Women’s health clinics are essential. They provide counseling, contraceptive services, abortions and, often, general health care. As the recession deepens and women lose health insurance, more are turning to family planning clinics for primary health care, where it’s often low-cost or free.

But the vociferous right wing isn’t easing up.

Eleanor Bader, author of “Targets of Hatred: Anti-Abortion Terrorism,” reports that since 2009 began, there has been an “uptick” of vulgar taunts, harassment, menace and violence at women’s clinics nationwide. A Feminist Majority Fund study found that 20 percent of these facilities reported blockades, invasions and stalking in 2008. (rhrealitycheck.org)

The New York law gives crucial legal protection to clinics, their patients and staff. However, just like Roe v. Wade, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision establishing abortion rights, it must be backed up by continuing vigilance and struggle against the ultra-right.

It is really the decades-long courage, determination and hard work of pro-choice activists that is the front-line defender of reproductive rights for all women. □



AT&T workers vote to strike

Eighty-eight percent of about 100,000 AT&T workers in five locals of the Communications Workers union from coast to coast voted in late March to go on strike if AT&T doesn’t offer a decent contract. The old contract expired April 4. AT&T still demands the workers pay more for health care and receive less toward their pensions—not to mention offering an insulting token raise in wages. Even though AT&T made \$12.9 billion in profits in 2008—almost a billion dollars more than in 2007—and its CEO Randall Stephenson received more than \$15 million in compensation, its fig-leaf reason for cutbacks is that if AT&T doesn’t stay competitive, it will go the way of the auto industry. But the workers aren’t fooled. “AT&T wants to increase profits by taking money out of the pockets of its work force and even its retirees,” reads an April 6 Communications Workers news release. “We’ve shown the company how to save money without massive cost-shifting; yet their only objective is to make workers pay more. Clearly AT&T is looking for scapegoats, not solutions.” Noting that this is a critical time for the Communications Workers and all workers, the union asks that progressive people show their support by signing a petition to AT&T at www.unionvoice.org/campaign/attewa/. The contract for another AT&T local in the Southeast with 25,000 workers doesn’t expire until August.

National Labor Coordinating Committee established

Leaders of the AFL-CIO, Change to Win and the National Education Association met April 6-7 and announced the creation of the National Labor Coordinating Committee “to act nationally on the critical issues facing working Americans.” The committee, which includes leaders of the three national labor organizations, presidents of six AFL-CIO affiliates and five CTW affiliates, is also negotiating terms for a reunited labor federation. Such topics as organizing, politics and legislative matters are on the table. The three groups represent more than 16 million workers in more than 60 unions.

Actors reach deal about commercials

The Screen Actors Guild and the Federation of Television and Radio Artists reached a three-year deal with the advertising industry effective April 1. The contracts increase actors’ compensation by 5.5 percent and contributions to health and retirement funds by \$21 million. The contracts also set aside money to study a pay structure favored by advertisers, under which actors would be paid based on a commercial’s rating rather than the number of times shown. The contracts also set a precedent by providing a payment structure for work made for the Internet and other new media. Because the final contract offered by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers first in June 2008 and again in February does not include such a new media provision, SAG has no current contract with the AMPTP. (www.sag.org)

Two unions to jointly organize hospital workers

The Service Employees union and the California Nurses Association ended a bitter, year-long dispute March 18 by agreeing to work together to unionize hospital workers and push for universal health coverage. The two unions, which butted heads over organizing 8,300 hospital workers in Ohio, agreed that in the spirit of the Employee Free Choice Act and the need for universal health care they could gain more by fighting together than fighting each other.

AFL-CIO says nix Prop 8

Following the lead of the AFL-CIO’s California affiliate and Pride At Work, on March 5 the National Executive Council passed a resolution unanimously calling on the California Supreme Court to invalidate Proposition 8, which overturned same-sex marriage in the state. “I applaud the AFL-CIO on their continuing support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender workers within, and outside, the Federation,” said Nancy Wohlforth, Pride At Work co-president and AFL-CIO Executive Council member. “Denying LGBT couples the right to marry has tremendous impact on the ability of LGBT workers to access full parity in the work place. ... Invalidating Proposition 8 is the only way to bring LGBT workers in California full equality in the work place and beyond.” In addition, more than 50 unions in California signed an amicus brief calling on the court to invalidate Prop 8. For more information, see www.prideatwork.org.

Support Parsons’ fine arts faculty

Auto Workers Local 7902, the union of part-time faculty at New York University and the New School, is sponsoring a rally April 23 to protest the mass dismissals of arts faculty at Parsons the New School for Design. A picket line will be held at 66 West 12th Street in Manhattan from 12 to 1 pm. □

Union wins contract with Wal-Mart

Wal-Mart finally ran out of delays and stalls. Following provincial labor law, a mediator awarded workers a first union contract April 10 in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, east of Montreal. The store workers are organized by the Food and Commercial Workers.

This is the first time any Wal-Mart employees in North America have gotten a union contract.

According to the union, the contract gives the workers “a legally binding grievance process, a wage structure ‘free from favoritism’ and seniority rights.”

The National Union of Public and General Employees, the Canadian union cooperating with the Food and Commercial Workers to organize Wal-Mart, announced last year that Wal-Mart employees in Gatineau, Quebec, have also petitioned for union recognition. Gatineau is across the Ottawa River from Canada’s capital.

—By G. Dunkel

Figures show crisis is global & worsening

By Fred Goldstein

A debate is heating up in the ruling class over whether or not an economic recovery is coming. Workers should be aware of two important points: first, the global picture of the capitalist crisis points in very drastic directions; and second, whatever recovery the bosses are talking about is a recovery for the profit makers and not the workers.

Those grasping at hope are basing themselves on Wells Fargo's new profit reports, U.S. trade figures, housing sales, industrial production and other indicators that have mildly improved over the past several weeks.

However, a new study entitled "A Tale of Two Depressions" undermines the various optimistic scenarios put forward and points in the opposite direction. It compares the current decline in industrial production, the fall in world trade and the collapse of the stock markets with what occurred during the Great Depression. The comparison is on a global basis, not just for the United States. While the Depression of the 1930s was also a global crisis, the world capitalist economy has become much larger and far more interdependent in the age of globalization.

The study was prepared by Barry Eichen-green, professor of economics and political science at the University of California, Berkeley, and Kevin H. O'Rourke, professor of economics at Trinity College, Dublin. Both work with the Center for Economic and Policy Research, and the study was written in answer to New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, who is characterizing the present crisis as a recession.

1930s and today

The study tracks the measures of world industrial output, world trade and global stock markets for nine months beginning in June 1929. It takes June 1929 as the starting point because that is when world capitalist production reached its peak and started to decline.

The study then tracks the same three indicators for nine months in the present period, beginning in April 2008 when world industrial production also peaked.

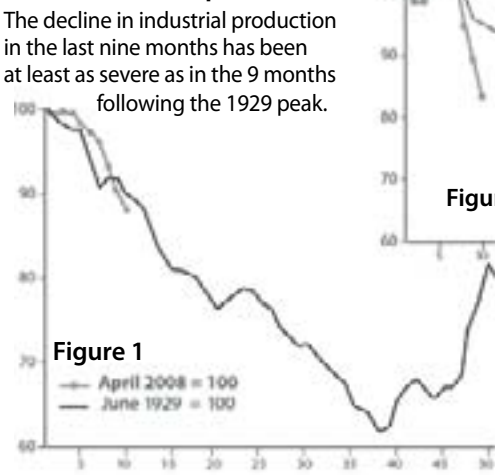
It shows that industrial production is declining at least as rapidly as it did during the earlier depression, world trade is falling even more rapidly, and global stock markets are showing the same rate of decline.

The stock markets are much less reliable indicators because they can fluctuate over the short term based on speculation. But the fundamentals of capitalist production and world trade are the basis of the capitalist global economy and the profit system.

Production is the key

A decline in industrial production means a decline in capitalist exploitation of the workers and the production of

World industrial output, now vs then
The decline in industrial production in the last nine months has been at least as severe as in the 9 months following the 1929 peak.



profits, on which the entire system runs. Exporting by the big imperialist countries—like the U.S., Germany, Japan and France—is an attempt on the part of each country to overcome its own internal crisis of overproduction. When world trade falls, it is a sign that overproduction has become global.

The authors hold out hope that all the money the government is pouring into the economy and the banks will keep the crisis from reaching Great Depression levels. They do not, however, chart the fall in employment or discuss the conditions of the working class.

Louis Uchitelle, writing in the April 7 New York Times, cites figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to show that "More than 24 million men and women, or 15.6 percent of the labor force, are either hunting for work or working fewer hours than they would like to work, or are too discouraged to seek work."

Actually, because the Clinton administration ruled that any worker "discouraged" from looking for work for more than a year should no longer be counted, this figure is really closer to 30 million.

While it is hard to compare today's statistics with those from the Great Depression era, Uchitelle showed that the number of unemployed or underemployed workers has grown by 10 million in the past year. In 1930, official unemployment was 8.9 percent. It rose sharply to 25 percent by 1933.

This is clearly the result of capitalist overproduction. Manufacturers are using only 68 percent of U.S. industrial capacity, the lowest level since records were first kept in 1948. So far, according to Uchitelle, there is a shortfall of \$1 trillion in sales that would be required to get production back to capacity.

To do that would take years, "even if the nation's employers stopped shedding more than 600,000 jobs a month, as they have done since December, and began hiring robustly," writes Uchitelle. Instead, all projections are for unemployment to continue rising in the future.

Layoffs continue

Meanwhile, states are cutting budgets for vital services across the coun-

The volume of world trade, now vs then
World trade is falling faster now than in 1929-30. This is alarming given the prominence attached in historical literature to trade destruction as a factor compounding the Great Depression.



try. Tent cities are springing up from Olympia, Wash., to Sacramento and Fresno, Calif., to Nashville, Tenn., to St. Petersburg, Fla. The rate of home foreclosures is increasing. Millions of workers are lining up at job fairs to learn how to fill out resumes and take interviews, but there are no jobs.

In short, while some investors may be profiting, there has been no recovery for the masses, and none is in sight.

In a sign of the deep decline of U.S. capitalism, the Treasury Department is demanding that General Motors and Chrysler shrink their industrial base. GM has been told to go from 17 assembly plants down to 12 or even fewer—a decline of 33 percent. It means more lost jobs, but not only at GM. It means shrinkage and unemployment in steel, rubber, glass, plastic, computer chips, fabric, small businesses that survive on orders from the assembly plants, closing of dealerships and so forth.

This kind of contraction is also going on in the housing industry, where millions of units sit unsold, and in the retail industry, where chain stores are closing. Layoffs are continuing in the high-tech sector and oth-

Protesters say 'No to utility shutof s'



Renee Washington, Joe Bullock and John Cheatham bring a strong protest message against Baltimore Gas & Electric's CEO.

Power 4 the People, a committee of the Bail Out the People Movement—which marched April 3-4 against the big banks on Wall Street—along with the Coalition to Re-regulate BGE and the Network to Stop Foreclosures & Evictions marched on the lavish Baltimore home of Constellation/BGE (Baltimore Gas & Electric) CEO Mayo Shattuck on April 6.

Protesters were responding to the announcement that BGE was scheduled to shut off utilities for 84,000 households in Maryland. This number is nearly three times larger than it was in 2008.

Police vehicles lined the driveway of Shattuck's estate, but their presence did not deter demonstrators who took over the streets and then lit candles to symbolize those families who will be without light.

Tragically, Betty Godfrey, a 61-year-old woman whose utilities had been cut off in East Baltimore, died the same day as a result of injuries from a house fire started by candles.

er industries central to U.S. capitalism.

At best, the capitalist economists may find some daylight of profitability for the bosses and bankers, but none can find a way out of mass unemployment, even with a recovery.

Uchitelle showed that overproduction lingered until the end of the Depression years, citing Robert Gordon, an economist at Northwestern University. "The Roosevelt economy also languished well below full capacity, Mr. Gordon said, until the summer of 1940 when France fell to Hitler's armies. From then until the attack on Pearl Harbor, 18 months later, a galvanized administration more than doubled federal outlays—soon accounting for \$1 of every \$4 spent in the country—and the United States entered the war with its economy operating at almost full capacity."

In other words, U.S. capitalism, after 10 years of depression, could only restore production and employment by preparing for and eventually going to war. The profit system had hit a wall. It was dragging society and the workers and the oppressed down to an existence of permanent mass unemployment and poverty.

This is what present-day capitalism has to offer the working class as the current global crisis deepens. Waiting for the system to recover and put an end to the suffering of the people is a pipedream.

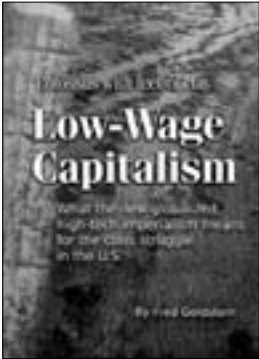
The only way out of this crisis is through creating broad unity of the workers and the communities that are being hammered by the bosses and bankers in order to mobilize a class-wide fightback. □

"With the capitalist system demonstrably unfair, irrational, and prone to intermittent crises, it is useful, indeed refreshing, to see a Marxist analysis of globalization and its effects on working people. Fred Goldstein's *Low-Wage Capitalism* does exactly that." — Howard Zinn

Low-Wage Capitalism

A timely new book by Fred Goldstein describes in sweeping detail the drastic effect on the working class of new technology and the restructuring of global capitalism in the post-Soviet era. It uses Karl Marx's law of wages and other findings to show that these developments are not only continuing to drive down wages but are creating the material basis for future social upheaval, the end of working-class compromise and retreat and must end up in a profound revival of the struggle against capital.

Order online at www.Leftbooks.com



Supreme Court denies review

Struggle intensifies TO FREE MUMIA

Continued from page 1

the opportunity to question and strike jurors based on whether or not they feel the jurors would be suitable.

“You cannot select jurors based on race,” Southerland stressed. “There cannot be any racial indication in the jury selection process. If there is, there’s a remedy to challenge that process. A case called *Batson v. Kentucky* [U.S. Supreme Court] essentially gave attorneys the ability to question whether or not other attorneys were using their strikes for racist reasons.”

In Abu-Jamal’s case, the prosecutor used 11 of his 15 strikes to remove Black jurors from the jury. In the end, Abu-Jamal’s case was tried before a jury of ten whites and two Blacks. On top of the strikes made by prosecutors, there was also a well-documented culture of discrimination by the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office.

Throughout the early 1980s and late 1990s a disproportionate number of African Americans were struck from capital case juries. A training tape by head D.A. Jack McMann, released in 1986, explained how to be discriminatory in jury selection, how to strike Black jurors and how to hide that fact from the judge.

“While the tape was not produced at the time of Mr. Abu-Jamal’s trial, we felt it was indicative of the long-standing history of discrimination by the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office in jury selection at that time,” Southerland noted.

“Despite all the evidence that attorneys for Mr. Abu-Jamal brought to the court’s attention, the Supreme Court decided that they did not want to hear his challenge to jury selection in this case. So that avenue of legal attack has been foreclosed by the Supreme Court’s decision not to even review the case.”

Southerland also spoke about the tremendous effect this ruling will have for those convicted of crimes throughout the state of Pennsylvania and across the country. “What the court did by declining to review his case was give an indication as to what level of evidence you need to prove discrimination. In this case, despite overwhelming evidence, despite the over-



WW PHOTO: JOEYUSKAITIS

On two days’ notice, standing-room-only crowd attends N.Y. emergency meeting for Mumia.

whelming taint of race throughout the trial, the Supreme Court decided not to even look at it.”

Abu-Jamal’s attorney, Robert R. Bryan, is going to seek a rehearing in the Supreme Court on the *Batson* issue. “The chances of the court granting rehearing are not great at all, but it is certainly a viable avenue to bring to the court’s attention that discrimination occurred during the jury selection,” said Southerland.

Linn Washington Jr. stated that in the past the U.S. Supreme Court has not acted fairly in Mumia’s case, just as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has not and definitely the lower courts have not. Washington noted, “In this particular case, with the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals essentially creating new standards for what must be proven before you can proceed with a jury discrimination claim, this ruling conflicts with previous rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court in other circuits; it was a case very ripe for appeal. However, this case has been impacted with race and politics all along, so I think the court made a political decision and didn’t proceed forward with it.”

Washington gave other examples of the contradictory treatment Abu-Jamal has received relative to other court rulings. He referred to these examples when the courts either ignore or alter their previous law as the “Mumia exception.”

“In 1986, the Pennsylvania Supreme

Court said it was illegal for a prosecutor to tell the jury, ‘Don’t worry about your verdict because the inmate will have appeal after appeal.’ This ruling occurred in a case tried by the same prosecutor who tried Abu-Jamal and before the same judge who presided over his case,” Washington noted. “But when Mumia’s case came up before this same court in 1989, they changed their ruling, and then in 1991 they changed it back in another case.

“The Pennsylvania Supreme Court made a ruling denying an appeal in Mumia’s case in March 1989 regarding his First Amendment right of association and his right to make a statement before the jury. In February 1989 they had made a ruling in a case saying that particular right was of such ancient origin that, when violated, a new trial was automatic. But 28 days later they totally changed it around saying that right doesn’t apply in capital murder cases.”

Pam Africa pointed out, “‘These judges do not have the right to do wrong,’ quoting MOVE leader John Africa. Why do we have to respect what these judges are doing when they break their own laws? The whole world is watching, and a lot of people are in shock about what is happening here.

“Mumia is alive today because of the power of the people,” Africa stated. “Yesterday, a guard told an imprisoned

MOVE member that Mumia was found dead in his cell. I called the prison asking to hear from Mumia, and people all over the world called Governor Rendell’s office demanding that he be allowed to call his family. In 45 minutes we received a call from him. This shows the power of the people.

“District attorneys, judges, lawyers and even police have been intimidated in this case—anyone who stands up against the FOP,” she continued. “We are dealing with a situa-

tion of governmental terrorism, enforced by organized crime—the Fraternal Order of Police. We must end terrorism at home before we dare think about terrorism abroad. There should be a civil rights investigation into this case immediately.”

On Saturday, April 11, organizing meetings were held in New York City and Philadelphia to galvanize supporters around the case. Nearly 60 people braved rainy weather to gather at a meeting at the Abiding Truth Ministries Church in West Philadelphia sponsored by ICFFMAJ. Later that day in New York, a standing-room crowd of about 150, overwhelmingly Black people, attended an emergency meeting at the Solidarity Center called by the N.Y. Free Mumia Coalition.

Both events took up a new petition campaign at www.Millions4Mumia.org and www.IACenter.org addressed to Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. asking for action in the 28-year-old case. The Justice Department just overturned the 2008 conviction of former Alaska Senator Stevens because of prosecutorial misconduct in his case. The petition for Mumia notes that the prosecution in his case also withheld information critical to the defense arguments for acquittal. The petition notes that while Abu-Jamal is not a U.S. senator of great wealth and power, he is a Black man revered around the world for his courage, clarity and commitment and deserves no less than Senator Stevens. □

If not now, when?

By U-Savior

Instead of bailing out mega-corporations that have sucked the life blood from the community, endorsed slavery, raided pensions, decimated savings, created the perfect environment for scams and put homeowners, renters and their families out on the street—FREE MUMIA!

The Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, handed George W. Bush the election despite the democratic popular vote to the contrary and as a direct result of that court’s decision we witnessed the erosion of civil liberties, scandals, torture and illegal wars that have killed hundreds of thousands. The world suffered greatly. Today this same court will not hear the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, an innocent man who has served over 25 years in prison on death row, in effect letting his conviction stand. This is not surprising. But this IS outrageous! This is disrespectful not only to justice everywhere but to the Black community in particular. What are we going to do about it? Um ... here’s a thought:

The Free Mumia Five Point Plan:

1. Tell Your Mama AND Obama: To all the supporters of the Obama administration: make this a central issue. If he’s unwilling, FORCE him to use every ounce of his reach and influence from presidential pardons to civil and human rights investigations to demand justice. Challenge his position and prepare to expose to the world where the real power is.

2. Shame Weak Leadership: Those in “leadership” in the Black community—who do not step up to fight, speak, write, divest, protest, ignite, bite, spit and curse, throw stares and misbehave on behalf of our brother—should be shown the door. Forever!

3. The Symbol: To my friends and family connected to street tribes: Let Mumia be your flag and symbol for a real political, social and positive movement that turns necessary attention back to Mumia’s plight.

4. One Hour Pledge: If every justice-loving, peace-seeking, freedom-fighting, consciousness-bringing individual pledges and dedicates at least one hour every day to fight, speak, write, divest, protest, ignite, bite, spit and curse, throw stares and misbehave, we can shake up this world and shake Mumia free from those cold white walls, steel doors and shackles.

5. Promise to never say, “I’ve done enough”: It’s not enough that in every Ghetto Chronicles episode that I direct that I place a promo about the Mumia coalition.

It’s not enough that every year I put his name on my birthday cake because we share the same birthday.

It’s not enough that after every film I place a FREE MUMIA TAG!

It’s not enough that I wrote this article. It’s not enough to say I wrote, visited or listen to Mumia on Prison Radio.

Never say we’ve done enough or we’ve done all we could until our true symbol of hope, change and justice is where we want him to be. Home, with us!

Let’s not forget that Mumia Abu-Jamal has done more work from death row than many “in-activists,” movement folk and “webolutionaries” to bringing attention and clarity to our struggle than those outside of prison. Mumia was an activist, photographer and writer dedicated to real justice before being arrested and charged with the murder of a Philadelphia policeman. Mumia Abu-Jamal like so many other political prisoners deserves our commitment. If we don’t take care of the best of us right here and right now it will send the wrong signal to activists all over the world. The fight for Mumia’s Justice and Freedom is a fight for our very own and a Fight we must win. IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Revolution, then peace! On The Move!

U-Savior is with Black Waxx Multimedia, Inc. and is the director of the documentary, “Disappearing Voices: The Decline of Black Radio.” Go to www.disappearingvoices.com. He is also a founding member of Artists and Activists United for Peace.



Int'l Conference Against Racism

Behind the U.S. gov't boycott

By Monica Moorehead & Sara Flounders

The decision by the Obama administration to boycott the Durban Review Conference Against Racism has raised a torrent of petitions, protests and criticism.

In September 2001 the U.S. delegation and the Israeli delegation walked out of the historic World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance organized by the United Nations in Durban, South Africa.

Both the U.S. and Israel labeled all efforts to express solidarity with Palestinians as victims of racism and colonialism as anti-Semitism. The U.S. delegation also opposed the call for reparations and concrete action measures for the crime against humanity of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the heritage of centuries of racist discrimination on an international level.

The 2001 Durban World Conference against Racism was attended by more than 10,000 people from all regions of the world. It consisted of three parallel gatherings—an official diplomatic gathering of nations, a youth forum and a massive, vibrant NGO (non-governmental organization) Forum.

Many thousands of South Africans, recently liberated from decades of racist apartheid rule, enthusiastically participated in the meetings and rallies of the NGO Forum.

The NGO Forum was an important catalyst for many groups from around the globe to come together, network and build support for work against racism and discrimination.

The international conference adopted by consensus the Durban Declaration and Program of Action. Many consider this document, especially the Program of Action, as an important framework for the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. It was a collective product hammered out by hundreds of organizations of people of color from around the world.

The first international acknowledgment of slavery and the slave trades as a crime against humanity sparked a movement for reparations in the U.S. that included class action lawsuits against

several corporations that were direct beneficiaries of the slave trade as well as the 2002 Millions for Reparations rally in Washington, D.C.

The international conference gave a major boost to the BDS movement to boycott, divest and sanction Israel in solidarity with Palestine. The inclusion, along with African people, of Indigenous peoples, immigrant workers, Roma people and other national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities along with all those affected by gender oppression, was a concrete step in building international solidarity among the oppressed.

The U.S. ruling class along with its media understood the enormous threat to their power, image and dominance on a global scale that this united gathering inherently represented.

From April 20 to 24, the United Nations will host the Durban Review Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, as a follow-up to the 2001 World Conference against Racism. The Human Rights Council of the United Nations (UNHRC) is responsible for organizing and convening the event “towards the effective and comprehensive implementation” of the conclusions and recommendations of WCAR, and to continue the “global drive for the total elimination of racism.”

It is easy and fairly inexpensive, especially for delegates from Europe and the United States, to travel to Geneva. And U.S. and European delegates to a conference there face no visa requirements at all. However, it is not only prohibitively expensive for delegates from African, Asian, Caribbean and Latin American countries, but Swiss visa restrictions make it much more difficult for them to attend.

Many anti-racist organizations have petitioned and campaigned to express their concern over the failure of the U.N. Conference Secretariat to provide more accessible information and invitations to NGOs to participate in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the Review Conference itself.

Internationally many groups have demanded to know: Why is there no NGO Forum accompanying this conference? Where are the arrangements for mass meeting spaces and housing facilities?



Durban, 2001.

Why is there only limited space and time for a few sidebar meetings? Why was the allocated funding for the many thousands of delegates, especially from Africa and the African Diaspora who were anxious to attend, not dispersed? African NGOs petitioned the Preparatory Committee months ago for information, funding and access.

Only NGOs accredited with ECOSOC (the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs), NGOs previously accredited, and those that knew how to apply for specific accreditation are able to participate in Geneva.

In the eight years since the Durban Conference, there has been an unrelenting campaign to malign, discredit and distort the World Conference Against Racism, to gut every provision that called for concrete action, to drop the collective document that was so enthusiastically passed, and especially to limit the participation of who can attend the follow-up conference. All of this has gone on behind the scenes, based on intense U.S. pressure, in collusion with that of the European powers that also benefited from centuries of racism and colonialism.

Almost every page of the Program of Action approved overwhelmingly in Durban is a threat and a challenge to U.S. policy and its corporate institutions. The Program of Action is hardly a revolutionary document, but the U.S. is in violation of almost every provision, and would find the proposed remedies to racism totally

unacceptable—from debt relief to transfer of technology, immigrant rights and ending human trafficking.

The Durban call for respect and the increased role of international organizations in protecting labor rights and women's rights—especially of the most oppressed women—is a threat to the very process of corporate globalization.

The only right that U.S. institutions advance, in the name of freedom, is the right of privately-owned corporations to freely loot the globe.

Just as for decades Israel has been the main defender of U.S. policy in the Middle East—always willing to do the dirty work of military enforcement—the Zionist forces have once more stepped forward to play the attack role. In fact most of the last eight years of political attacks on the Durban Conference have been carried out by Zionist organizations.

The 47-page Durban document has now been censored and edited down to less than a third of its original size. As a condition of participation Washington has demanded that the Durban Program of Action be totally dropped, that any mention of reparations be deleted, along with the one mention of Israel and its apartheid practices.

After imposing a now-toothless document on the conference, the U.S. government is still dragging its feet on participation. These conscious acts of sabotage have

Continued on page 8

African-American Historian John Hope Franklin

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

African-American historian John Hope Franklin died March 25 in Durham, N.C., at age 94. Franklin published several books and numerous articles aimed at the reconstruction of African-American history and its relationship to the development of the United States.

Franklin was born in Rentiesville, Okla., on Jan. 2, 1915. The grandson of slaves, Franklin witnessed first-hand the impact of institutional discrimination in Oklahoma during the 1920s.

Franklin's father became an attorney and worked on behalf of African Americans affected by racism during the early part of the 20th century. His father was a survivor of the so-called Tulsa Riot of 1921 when white racist mobs, organized by law-enforcement officials and businessmen, attacked the African-American community, killing 300 people and destroying 191 Black-owned businesses, known at the time as “Black Wall Street.”

After teaching at various Black institutions including Fisk, St. Augustine's College and North Carolina College, he landed a faculty position at Howard University in 1947 and remained there until 1956. In 1947, he published his most well-known book, “From Slavery to Freedom,” which chronicled African-American history from the 17th century to the post-slavery period.

Perhaps the most significant act of defiance on the part of Professor Franklin was his defense of W.E.B. DuBois during the Cold War, anti-communist hysteria of the early 1950s.

DuBois, who had been openly criticized by the ruling class for his involvement in the peace and anti-colonial struggles of the period, was indicted by the federal government in the early 1950s for ostensibly being a proponent of subversive beliefs. Although DuBois was acquitted of the charges amid a national campaign in his defense, his



An appreciation

reputation was tarnished by the corporate press and its surrogates. However, Franklin refused to go along with the witch hunt and spoke out against the false accusations made against his mentor.

In his later years, Franklin was appointed by President Bill Clinton to chair a commission to examine the state of race relations in the United States. It was during this period in the second Clinton administration that the 1921 Tulsa racial disturbances became a focus of a commission study, which concluded that the survivors were due reparations for their pain and suffering. Nonetheless, there was never any agreement about what form reparations would take. Franklin rejected the notion that a mere apology for these racist attacks would be sufficient.

Franklin gave an interview with the Independent Weekly in Durham that was published on April 18, 2007, in which he said the apologies issued by state govern-

ments in the South for the institution of slavery fell far short of bringing about racial reconciliation in the United States.

When asked his opinion about the apology issued by the North Carolina Assembly, Franklin responded: “It's going to become epidemic now. People are running around apologizing for slavery. What about that awful period since slavery—Reconstruction, Jim Crow and all the rest? And what about the enormous wealth that was built up by black labor? If I was sitting on a billion dollars that someone had made when I sat on them, I probably would not be slow to apologize, if that's all it takes. I think that's little to pay for the gazillions that black people built up—the wealth of this country—with their labor, and now you're going to say I'm sorry I beat the hell out of you for all these years? That's not enough. They ought to develop some kind of modus operandi that they can do something else—something to absolve themselves of three centuries of guilt from which they are the direct beneficiaries.”

*Read the entire obituary at
www.workers.org*

CUBA NEWS ROUND-UP

Congressional Black Caucus says: ‘Talk to Cuba’

“We are the isolated country,” concluded U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver on April 7, upon returning to Missouri from a six-day Congressional Black Caucus delegation to Cuba. Every other country in the Western Hemisphere has diplomatic relations with Cuba. (kansascity.com)

The delegation, led by CBC chairperson Barbara Lee from California, met with Cuban President Raúl Castro; Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly of Peoples’ Power; Pedro Sáez Montejo, first secretary of the Havana Provincial Committee of the Party; Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez; Deputy Foreign Minister Dagoberto Rodríguez; and Jorge Bolaños, head of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. The message the CBC brought back was, “It’s time to talk to Cuba. The moment is now.” (Reuters, April 7)

Just before the trip, legislation blocking U.S. presidents from interfering in the right to travel to Cuba was introduced in both congressional houses.

The CBC report to congressional leaders and President Barack Obama comes on the eve of the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago, April 17-19. The U.S. has used its imperialist muscle to force the exclusion of Cuba from hemispheric organizations since the early 1960s, but now faces stiff opposition. The entire membership of the United Nations—except for the U.S., Israel and Palau—has called on the U.S. to end the blockade of Cuba. At the previous summit, held in 2005 at Mar del Plata, Argentina, the U.S. “free trade” agenda to further dominate the economies of developing countries was rejected.

The irreconcilable hostility of the U.S. capitalist class to an economy based on human needs has not changed. The Washington Post shelved its liberal news media veneer to show U.S. ruling-class reaction, with an April 9 editorial slamming the CBC delegation for “Coddling Cuba.” The Post even conjured a fantasy civil rights movement, misappropriating Rosa Parks’ name, and criticized the delegation for not meeting with a sparse U.S.-sponsored and -funded “pro-democracy movement.”

The editorial ignores the major issue addressed by the delegation: the nearly 50 years of diplomatic, economic and military aggression against socialist Cuba by the U.S. government and counterrevolutionary paramilitaries allowed to base in Florida. Even under these conditions, an April 7 New York Times article points out that, per capita, fewer babies die in Cuba during their first year of life than in the U.S.—only one of many human advances achieved since the 1959 revolution. The Post disregards that internationally acclaimed journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal remains on Pennsylvania’s death row and the U.S. is condemned as the prison house of the world, with more than two million men and women incarcerated, disproportionately African-American and Latina/o, and virtually every one of them poor. Among those imprisoned are the Cuban Five, whose sole mission in the U.S. was to warn Cuba of impending terror attacks organized from Florida.

Along with Lee and Cleaver, the delegation included Marcia Fudge from Ohio, former Black Panther leader Bobby Rush from Illinois and California representatives Melvin Watt, Laura Richardson and Mike Honda. Lee, Rush and Richardson also met with former Cuban president and

FREE THE CUBAN 5



Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Rene González Sehwerert, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez y Fernando González Llort.

revolutionary leader Fidel Castro—a first for anyone from the U.S. since his illness and retirement.

Hotel bombings finally tied to Posada

The treatment of self-proclaimed hotel and airplane bomber Luis Posada Carriles by the U.S. courts and government really fits the Merriam-Webster definition of “coddling”: to pamper. Certainly the immigrant women and children awaiting deportation in the Hutto prison in Texas would view it that way.

In 2007 Federal Judge Cardone released Posada on bond from charges of immigration fraud. Posada now lives comfortably in Miami although Venezuela has repeatedly demanded that the U.S. extradite him to stand trial there for his role in the 1976 midair bombing of Cubana Flight 455, killing all 73 civilians on board. The family of Fabio di Celmo, an Italian tourist killed in a 1997 Havana hotel bombing linked to Posada, still seeks justice.

In a new development on April 8, a grand jury in El Paso, Texas, indicted Posada on perjury and other charges, stating that he lied about his involvement in Havana bombings during immigration proceedings. Although these charges are only related to immigration, José Pertierra, attorney for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, stated: “You don’t simply say that he lied and hide the fact that he was involved in international ter-

rorism and hide the fact that he hired the Salvadoran assassins to go to Cuba to kill Fabio di Celmo. ... They have to indict Posada Carriles for the murder of Fabio di Celmo. They have to either extradite him to Venezuela or prosecute him in the United States for 73 counts of first-degree murder in relation to the downing of the plane. These are concrete steps that have to be taken. ...

“April 17 [when Posada must answer the indictment] is not simply the anniversary of the Bay of Pigs but is the first day of the Summit of the Americas. ... The Obama administration has been thinking ahead of how it’s going to present itself to the world, and to Latin America on April 17 with relation to ... the so-called war on terror. The United States is sheltering an international terrorist. So we welcome this as a first step, but Venezuela insists [Posada] must be extradited and he must be prosecuted for murder and not simply for perjury.” (www.freethefive.org)

Smash the U.S. blockade

This year, 2009, celebrates many anniversaries: the 50th of the socialist revolution in Cuba, and of active solidarity in the U.S. with Cuba; the 40th of the Venceremos Brigade; and the 20th of Friendshipment Caravans by Pastors for Peace. The VB and Caravans have repeatedly challenged the illegal, immoral blockade of Cuba by traveling without government authorization.

The act of defending rights by exercising them has made travel ban enforcement impossible. This summer is your chance to exercise your freedom to travel and help end the blockade of Cuba. For more information, go to venceremosbrigade.net or pastorsforpeace.org or e-mail laborexchange@aol.com.

—Cheryl LaBash

Gov't report raises

What can stop birds’ decline?

By Kris Hamel

The U.S. Department of the Interior released a sobering report on March 19 entitled, “The State of the Birds 2009.” The report is the first extensive study and analysis undertaken by the federal government on this crucial indicator of environmental health.

A stunning one-third of the more than 800 bird species in the U.S. are endangered, threatened or in decline, due primarily to climate change and habitat loss, according to the report.

It notes: “Hawaiian birds and ocean birds appear most at risk, with populations in danger of collapse if immediate conservation measures are not implemented. Bird populations in grassland and aridland habitats show the most rapid declines over the past 40 years. Birds that depend on forests are also declining. ...

“[T]he possibility of extinction is still a cold reality for many birds: Thirteen species may no longer exist in the wild (nine species and one subspecies from Hawaii, plus Bachman’s Warbler, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and Eskimo Curlew). Several species face unprecedented conflict with humans for land at peak economic value (for example, in peninsular Florida, mid-continental prairies, coastal California, Texas hill country, and the Pacific Northwest).” (stateofthebirds.org)

The National Audubon Society—a contributor to the 2009 report—in 2007 noted dramatic declines in 20 common bird

species in the U.S. over a 40-year period: “Since 1967 the average population of the common birds in steepest decline has fallen by 68 percent. ... All 20 birds ... lost at least half their populations in just four decades.” (audubon.org)

The 2009 report indicated that things can be turned around with planning, advocacy and protective legislation: “The upward trend for wetland birds in the U.S. is a testament to the amazing resilience of bird populations where the health of their habitat is sustained or restored.” The report also noted the restoration of peregrine falcon and bald eagle populations.

What can reverse the decline?

There are many dedicated environmentalists who daily try to reduce their own carbon footprint, to recycle and take other measures on behalf of a sustainable and clean natural environment. But that is not enough. Individuals must come together and build a strong global movement for a new system that puts people and the planet first, instead of profits for a wealthy minority.

Environmental activists who recently took part in anti-capitalist protests at the G20 summit in London rightly aimed their struggle at the capitalist governments that have bailed out banks with trillions of dollars while taking money away from programs to enact and enforce environmental regulations and protections.

On the other hand, tiny socialist Cuba, an impoverished country hammered by

more than four decades of a U.S. blockade, has made strides in protecting birds and their habitat, as well as other environmental measures unheard of in capitalist countries.

Cuba accounts for half the land mass in the Caribbean and has rich and diverse ecosystems and animal species. The island has 355 kinds of birds, including 23 endemic species found nowhere else in the world and 165 species that stop in Cuba during migration. (bsc-eoc.org/cuba.html)

A 25-year study resulted in the 2006 publication of “Aquatic Birds in the Wetlands of Cuba,” a popularly-written scientific book distributed free of charge to all libraries, museums and environmental organizations in that Caribbean island nation.

“The text emphasizes how rice fields have been transformed into important sites in terms of food, nest-building and homes for [wetlands] birds which, at the same time, benefit this crop by eating a large amount of potential menaces: unwanted invertebrates and plants.” (Granma, Nov. 14, 2006)

The Cuban study resulted in two environmental education campaigns involving 8,000 residents in rice-growing areas and the classification of three zones as Important Bird Areas by Birdlife International.

Hamel is a member of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a participating organization in the State of the Birds 2009 study. E-mail: khamel@workers.org.

Int’l Conference Against Racism

Behind the U.S. gov’t boycott

Continued from page 7

encouraged other countries to also withdraw. Canada has dutifully announced that it will not participate, and Britain and France continue to threaten to withdraw unless the agenda is further constrained and censored.

A number of anti-racist organizations have continued the struggle to support the Durban Declaration and the Program of Action.

Several petitions urging U.S. participation in the Durban Review Conference; the NGO Declaration reaffirming Durban, events in Geneva; links to the Durban World Conference Against Racism Declaration and Program of Action are posted on the web site of the International Action Center: www.IACenter.org.

Monica Moorehead is the editor and co-author of “Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle,” which can be ordered from www.leftbooks.com. Sara Flounders is the co-director of the IAC and N.Y. U.N. Representative for Nord Sud XXI—an NGO based in Geneva.

Go to www.workers.org to read this article in its entirety.

Before his visit to Harlem, U.N.

Evo Morales ends hunger strike with victory

By Lal Roohk

Bolivian President Evo Morales is scheduled to speak at the Salem United Methodist Church in Harlem when he visits the U.N. in New York on April 22. On April 14, Morales and his supporters ended a five-day hunger strike in victory after Bolivia’s congress passed a law guaranteeing 14 congressional seats for Indigenous candidates and allowing expatriates the right to vote.

On April 9, Morales and his allies in the Indigenous and workers’ movements called a hunger strike to demand the implementation of an electoral law guaranteeing general elections next Dec. 6 and regional polls in April 2010. The opposition in the Senate had been sabotaging the new Bolivian Constitution and the electoral process for months in order to stop the election, which is expected to further their defeat.

Indigenous and labor leaders joined with Morales and together they declared the hunger strike from the presidential palace. Responding to this action, representatives of the mass organizations had been continuing to arrive at Murillo Square in front of the palace. By April 11,

an estimated 1,500 had joined the hunger strike defending the right to vote.

The Provisional Electoral Law and the new Bolivian Constitution insure the voting rights of workers and Indigenous people. The Senate minority tried to sabotage the constitution and the elections, because as Morales says, “It will be impossible to beat them [the Indigenous] at the polls.” (www.boliviaUN.org) The minority had been attempting to reduce the number of Indigenous seats from 14 to four in the new Plurinational Assembly (the name the Congress will adopt in 2010).

Opposition to his government is based in a small wealthy class that controls the fertile land in the eastern lowlands of Bolivia, where they have horribly exploited the Indigenous population. Last September they killed 11 people and wounded 50 more in an attempt to secede from the poorer, arid western highlands.

The failure of his rich opponents has increased Morales’ prestige and moral authority. He is standing up to oligarchs who are backed by U.S. financial and military aid. More than once in the past year he has expelled U.S. Embassy officials for their seditious actions. In the arena of this struggle the success of the Morales gov-

ernment in improving health care, education and the distribution of wealth has not remained hidden. This is despite the fact that the oligarchs virtually control the entire media.

Important changes have been taking place in Bolivia. “An exemplary literacy campaign has eliminated illiteracy in record time; medical services now extend to the entire population; and important historical needs of the Bolivian people are being addressed with original and new methods. The economy and hard currency reserves are growing. This infuriates the oligarchy.

“The new constitution of Bolivia guarantees universal access to quality public education that is community-based as well as intercultural and plurilingual. Three new Indigenous universities to be opened, each located in a different region of Bolivia, will offer instruction in the native languages of Aymara, Quechua, and Guaraní.” (BoliviaUN.org, April 7)

On March 20, Pablo Solon, Bolivian ambassador to the U.N., announced at a meeting of labor and community activists held at SEIU 1199 in New York that Morales plans to visit New York. Solon said that President Morales will raise issues at the

U.N. that he is working on, including the implementation of a “Mother Earth Day.”

Morales wants to build a wide network of labor, community and youth organizations that are concerned with the urgency of the environmental damage caused by major capitalist powers. Solon talked about the acute problems of underdeveloped countries that have been stripped of the means to recover. In Bolivia and other Andean countries the rapid melting of glacier water is endangering the water supply.

Speaking of the G20 summit, Morales said: “As long as we do not touch the structural points of capitalism, it will be difficult to resolve the financial crisis. If we want to solve economic problems, we must first end the free market, then the speculative capitalism.” (www.boliviaUN.org)

Cuban leader Fidel Castro had been following the course of the hunger strike with frequent calls to the Cuban ambassador in La Paz. Castro reported on April 10, “Evo Morales is well, and in constant communication with his cadres on cell phone. People continue arriving at Murillo Square. I haven’t the slightest doubt that Evo will come out victorious,” said Castro. (Prensa Latina) □

Conversations at an int’l seminar in Mexico’s capital

By Berta Joubert-Ceci
Federal District, Mexico

When almost 200 delegates representing 80 organizations and political parties from 40 countries, primarily from Latin America, met in the Federal District of Mexico last March 19-21 for the XIII Seminar on “Political Parties and the New Society,” hosted by Mexico’s Workers Party (PT), it was a tremendous opportunity to learn more about the host country, meet new political friends and renew old contacts, and in the process learn from those who are in the midst of work and struggles in their own countries. Political gatherings such as this can reinvigorate political work and impart optimism and great international solidarity.

The face of Mexico

Before the Seminar’s opening, the reality of the terrible poverty suffered by the Mexican masses was apparent just across from the hotel where all of the Seminar’s events were going to be held, in the business center of the capital. A large tent surrounded by big banners with slogans such as “Opportunity for poor people” and “Housing for those who don’t have it” was a temporary home for hundreds of poor, homeless peasants. They had traveled from different regions to be part of a protest against Sedesol, the government’s Department of Social Development, for not providing promised housing.

The Antorchista Movement, which originated in the 1970s to defend and struggle for the rights of peasants, organized the protest. From Feb. 23 to March 18 they had held rallies and marches around the area.

Inside the hotel the next day, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) was describing in detail the reasons for the most recent increase in poverty. His supporters call AMLO “the legitimate president of Mexico,” since the pro-U.S. oligarchy stole the 2006 presidential elections from him through fraud. AMLO called Mexico “a mafia state” with a “usurper and failed”

government—the administration of current president Felipe Calderón.

AMLO also pointed out that in Mexico neoliberalism has amounted to sheer “vandalism.” Under the government of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who stole the elections from Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas in 1988, a series of privatizations and the subsequent accumulation of wealth in fewer and fewer hands have established a very small elite that controls banks, enterprises and most state institutions. This has led to a complete disregard for the needs of the people and the consequent pauperization of the masses, he said.

Honduras, from USA military outpost, to a member of ALBA

Conversations with Honduran House Rep. Silvia Ayala of the opposition party—the Democratic Unification of the Left—helped clarify her country’s role. While Honduras is the second poorest country in Central America, it represents the changing atmosphere in Latin America, that of regional integration and distancing from U.S. domination.

The Honduran president, Liberal Party farming entrepreneur Manuel Zelaya, is no leftist. He even supported the Free Trade Agreement with the U.S. during his inauguration in 2005. But Zelaya has opened relations with Cuba, and stated in his recent visit to that island, “I am ready to support this [Cuban] revolution, this socialist identity and permanently denounce those who oppress her.”

Under Zelaya, Honduras became part of the progressive trading bloc ALBA in 2008 and signed agreements involving Petrocaribe with Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez. The Honduran economy had been tied to the U.S., which has been its largest trading partner. According to Ayala, the Honduran right wing is quite upset with Zelaya for this approach. Her party opposes Zelaya but supports these measures that bring relief to the poor in Honduras.



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Lucia Morett, with glasses, Mexican survivor of March 2008 Colombian attack inside Ecuador.

Panama, 20 years after the U.S. invasion

In conversation, Panamanian sociologist and general secretary of the leftist Popular Alternative Party, Olmedo Beluche, clarified the situation of the current government of Martín Torrijos and the upcoming May 3 elections. Although the PAP will not be able to run in these elections due to the tremendous amount of signatures required by the Electoral Tribunal, they are supporting an independent candidate.

Beluche said the PAP’s premise is that even though there are divisions in the movement, there are objective conditions in Panama that can facilitate raising a left political alternative that is anti-neoliberal.

He also commented on the extreme corruption surrounding several bourgeois party presidential candidates who have been linked to the latest Colombian scandal. Called the DMG after “owner” David Murcia Guzmán, this is a money laundering setup that has been running a pyramid scheme, throwing thousands of Colombians into bankruptcy. Murcia Guzmán has also been implicated in illegally funding Colombian rightist President Álvaro Uribe’s reelection campaign and the Panamanian presidential candidates.

Colombia-Dominican Republic connection

It was a relief to see alive and doing well Dominican revolutionary and Marxist political analyst Narciso Isa Conde at the Seminar. Weeks before, Isa Conde had widely disseminated a cautionary note through the Internet entitled “Why did Montoya come?” stating that Gen. Mario Montoya, who had been linked to clandestine commands and massacres and was accused of numerous crimes in Colombia, had presented his credentials as Colombian ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

Quoting from several Colombian newspapers, Isa Conde, who had written extensively in solidarity with the Colombian insurgency, pointed out Uribe’s decision to persecute FARC and ELN “leaders and supporters” even beyond Colombian borders. He raised the possibility that Montoya’s nomination will turn into “a transplant of the (paramilitary) criminal Colombian model to the Dominican repressive forces.”

Lucía Morett, a friendly and warm young woman, was the only survivor among five Mexican students who were visiting the Colombian revolutionaries’ (FARC) encampment in Ecuador on March 1, 2008, when the Colombian army crossed the border into Ecuador, bombing the facility and killing FARC spokesman Raúl Reyes, other guerrilla members and four students. Morett was granted a stay in Nicaragua but decided to return to Mexico to face the unjust charges that the Mexican prosecution has leveled against her.

Morett said that the right-wing forces are behind this unfounded charge and even if she has not been asked to offer testimony, the prosecution would not drop the case so as to keep it as a “Damocles sword” hanging over her and other Mexican students. □



Socialism or capitalism?

There was a time when the captains of finance and industry were proud of the label capitalist. “Forbes—Capitalist Tool” was a magazine popular with the Wall Street crowd. Schools taught about the benefits of capitalism over its biggest enemy, socialism.

Somewhere along the way, the enthusiasm for capitalism began to wane. Maybe it had to do with the fact that real wages were dropping and benefits were being slashed while the super-rich were whooping it up. More popular-sounding phrases began to take over. Countries were being pressured to accept “free markets.” The people who put up “venture capital” were called “entrepreneurs.” The magazine of multi-millionaire Steve Forbes became just plain “Forbes.”

Then came the housing crisis, the stock market dive, the jobs crisis, the budget cuts, the credit card crisis—in other words, the boom-to-bust crisis of capitalism that was inevitable in this profit system. The super-rich demanded, and got, trillions of dollars from the government to shore up their banks and other financial instruments.

But for millions of workers and dispossessed, the bottom has dropped out of their lives. More and more they are realizing this is the product of capitalism.

A national telephone survey was conducted recently by the polling firm

Rasmussen Reports. It asked a simple question: Which is better, capitalism or socialism?

Just four months ago, in December, a similar poll asked people if they preferred a “free market economy” over one managed by the government. Some 70 percent were for the free market. But now, it seems, they don’t think capitalism is so “free.” In the new poll, two-thirds said big business and big government work together against the people’s interests. Now only 53 percent say they prefer capitalism over socialism. Among younger people, 37 percent prefer capitalism, 33 percent socialism, and 30 percent are undecided.

After so much Red Scare propaganda in this country, a lot of people are confused about socialism—although fewer than before. What if the questions were phrased this way:

Would you prefer an economy run by workers (socialism) or by bosses (capitalism)?

Would you prefer an economy geared to meeting people’s needs (socialism) or geared to producing profits for a few (capitalism)?

Do you think people should have a right to a job, a home, education and health care (socialism), or that the rich should have the right to fire, evict, foreclose, underfund the schools and deny medical care (capitalism)? □

Koreans tour U.S. with Truth Commission

By Eric Struch
New York

Members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of south Korea have recently toured the U.S. and Canada, speaking out about how bloody repression by the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Syngman Rhee accompanied the political partitioning of Korea in 1948.

Their first stop was Columbia University on March 24, where TRC Standing Commissioner Dr. Kim Dong-choon and Dr. Hee Kyung Suh, a member of its Investigation Bureau, talked about some of their findings.

The TRC is investigating massacres carried out by the Rhee dictatorship both before and after the 1950-1953 war in Korea, as well as disappearances and murders that occurred under later military dictatorships.

Among the many incidents of mass killings, two stand out: the bombing of Jeju Island and the Yeosun-Suncheon Uprising.

Until 1948, there was one Korean nation. Japan in 1905 had imposed colonial rule over all of Korea, but by the time of Japan’s surrender at the end of World War II, liberation forces led by Kim Il Sung, a communist, had freed the northern half of Korea while U.S. troops occupied the south.

When Syngman Rhee, a puppet of Washington, announced the establishment of a Republic of Korea in the U.S.-occupied area, a rebellion against the division of the country broke out on Jeju Island on April 3, 1948. It quickly spread and was supported with armed actions by communist guerrillas against both local police and troops of the U.S. occupation.

Washington ordered the RoK army to use scorched-earth tactics against civilians and guerrillas alike. The U.S. bombed the island indiscriminately with napalm, causing an enormous number of civilian casualties. By the RoK army’s own estimates, there had been less than 3,000 guerrillas on the island. Before the U.S. napalming of civilians, Jeju had 400 towns and villages. Only 170 survived. U.S. military estimates of the dead ranged between 15,000 and 20,000. The Seoul government claimed that 27,719 had perished, but according to an account by Jung Byung-joon in “Attempts to Settle the Past during the April Popular Struggle,” “The Jeju provincial governor told a U.S. intelligence agency that over 60,000 people were killed and 40,000 migrated to Japan.”

When word got out about the savage U.S. bombing of civilians on Jeju Island, the masses were outraged. The anger spread to the rank and file of the RoK army. On October 19, 1948, troops of the 14th Regiment of the National Defense Guard of South Korea were ordered to the island to finish off the resistance to the U.S. occupation. Instead, the soldiers rose up in rebellion against not only their deployment but also the partitioning of their nation. When the 2,000 rebel soldiers arrived in Yeosun, they found that the people were in full solidarity with their rebellion, which quickly spread throughout the eastern areas of Jeonnam Province.

Memorial placards at Suncheon National University, Suncheon Station and Dongcheon River tell the story: “On October 20th, the Suncheon police and right-wing youths from adjacent regions established a defensive line at Gwangyang Samguri, but failed to keep the insurgent forces from advancing to downtown Suncheon because the 4th Regiment,

a support troop from Gwangju, joined the insurgents. The nearby Suncheon Northern Elementary School was the site of questioning and executing of civilians who were suspected of taking sides with the insurgents. The victims were executed without trial on the levee of a rice paddy behind the school auditorium.”

The only reliable element for the RoK state was the cops, who remained loyal to the Rhee dictatorship during the Yeosun-Suncheon Uprising. According to Jung Byung-joon, “The police retained their pro-Japanese officers. According to 1960 statistics, those who had served as police officers under Japanese colonial rule accounted for about 15 percent of the 4,000 police lieutenants nationwide, about 30 percent of the 500 police captains, about 40 percent of the 160 senior superintendents, and about 70 percent of the 20 police commissioners and superintendents general. ... The pro-Japanese nature of the police, a remnant of Japanese colonialism that should’ve been eradicated in the wake of the nation’s liberation in 1945, remained intact under Syngman Rhee. Pro-Japanese police officers ... suppressed democracy to maintain the security of the Syngman Rhee administration.”

The same was true of the RoK army brass, most of whom had been in the Japanese Imperial Army during the colonial period. As stooges for imperialist Japan in its occupation of the part of China known as Manchuria, they carried out Japan’s “Kill all! Burn all! Loot all!” tactics against the people in an attempt to stamp out their resistance.

During the Korean War, when the U.S. had operational control over the RoK military, this kind of savagery was repeated. The Korean communists, led by Kim Il Sung, were fighting to liberate their country from these agents who had switched from one imperialist master to another. Park Chung-hee, a general who ruled the south with U.S. blessings from 1961 to 1979, had himself been a member of the Japanese army and was an informer for the RoK government at the time of the Yeosun-Suncheon revolt.

The TRC is in the process of investigating the many pre- and postwar massacres carried out by the Rhee dictatorship, as well as later disappearances and murders. The commission was set up in 2005 by the south Korean government in a period of democratic opening that followed a mass, student-led movement that battled the cops and the military in the streets in the 1980s.

Nodutdol, a progressive New York-based Korean grassroots community organization, says the TRC “represents a dramatic change from the silence imposed by past authoritarian regimes in South Korea about massacres of civilians committed by U.S. forces and the South Korean police/military both before and during the Korean War.”

Now a right-wing government in Seoul is trying to hinder the TRC’s investigations and strip it of its funding. Nevertheless, Washington is worried that the truth about Korea is coming out. □

Iraqis to U.S. after six years:

‘Get out’

By John Catalinotto

Eighty days into the new U.S. administration and Iraq is still with us. That is, U.S. troops are still occupying Iraq. And the Barack Obama administration has asked Congress for another \$83.4 billion to carry out the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Iraqis are also reminding the world that, despite a significant slowdown in fighting and despite whatever differences exist among Iraqis, the vast majority of the population wants the U.S. out.

Six years ago on April 9, the U.S. commanders decided they had won the war and brought in a few hundred Iraqi hangers-on to stage the pulling down of the statue of Saddam Hussein with the help of a U.S. bulldozer. This year, some 50,000 Iraqis demonstrated on the same square to demand the U.S. get out. The crowd burned George W. Bush in effigy.

While the dissident Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr’s group is credited with organizing the April 9 demonstration, independent journalist Nir Rosen reports that members of the so-called Awakening Councils joined the protest. The U.S. military had made agreements with the Awakening Councils—local organizations of Iraqis in mostly Sunni areas that at one time fought the U.S. occupation—that led to a cease fire in those areas.

In Falluja, the city the U.S. military destroyed in 2004 after people there killed four U.S. mercenaries working for Blackwater, people held a similar anti-U.S. protest that day. (Al-Hayat). A statement of the Falluja-based Iraqi Islamic Party suggested to President Barack

Obama that he has a responsibility to show that his policies are different from Bush’s, whose aggression was responsible for killing a million Iraqis.

Anti-U.S. protest was not restricted to the symbolic. In Mosul, a major northern city, a truck driver detonated a ton of explosives near a police station on April 10 and killed five U.S. troops.

On April 11 a bomber infiltrated a gathering of U.S.-allied Sunni fighters—soldiers working with the Awakening Councils—who were waiting to be paid in the town of Latifiyah south of Baghdad. When the bomb went off, it killed 12 people and wounded 30, including both regular and “Awakening” soldiers.

The message is that continued occupation will bring continued casualties to U.S. troops. This didn’t stop the U.S. commander, Gen. Ray Odierno, from asking for more U.S. troops to actively patrol Mosul and Buquba, where resistance fighting has stepped up. There are indications that the alliance of the U.S. with the “Awakening Councils” is collapsing.

On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the war, the Belgium-based anti-occupation Brussels Tribunal organized an appearance before the European Parliament of Iraqi spokespeople that together give a view of the havoc the U.S. occupation has wreaked upon the Iraqi people.

Statements from Dr. Omar Al Kubaisy, Abdul Ilah Albayaty and Dr. Faleh Al Khayat can be read at www.brussellstri-bunal.org or watched on the new Brussels Tribunal YouTube section.

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Pentagon targets Africa

Why Somalis target ships

Continued from page 1

tive countries try to attack us, we will kill them. U.S. forces have become our number one enemy.”

Another Somali, Abdulahi Lami, said in the same article that the pirates would not be intimidated by U.S. military actions in the Indian Ocean. “Every country will be treated the way it treats us. In the future, America will be the one mourning and crying. We will retaliate for the killings of our men.”

According to the official reports issued by the U.S. military, snipers positioned on the Naval warship the USS Bainbridge shot and killed three Somalis after monitoring their movements for several days. The plan to kill the Somalis was reportedly approved by President Barack Obama.

U.S. Navy spokespeople claimed that the snipers fired on the Somalis when Phillip’s life was endangered. “They were pointing AK-47s at the captain,” said Vice Admiral William Gortney, who heads the U.S. Naval Central Command. His statement was made in a Pentagon briefing from Bahrain and reported by Al Jazeera on April 13.

However, this version of events has been disputed by the Somalis who support the vessel seizures. They contend that the three young men were killed after they agreed to end the standoff and release Phillips. This operation took place only two days after similar actions were carried out by French military commandos who stormed a yacht held by Somalis, which resulted in the death of one of the French nationals being held.

Mohammed Adow, a correspondent for Al Jazeera, said in the same report, “U.S. forces are reported to have attacked the lifeboat when the pirates were expecting a diplomatic exchange ... [and] have taken the remaining pirate to one of their ships in these waters.”

In another development that further escalated tensions in the region, two low-flying U.S. military helicopters flew over areas at the port city of Harardhere in the northeast of Somalia on April 12. The U.S. military claims that this area is a base for pirate operations against vessels traveling in the Gulf of Aden.

Local residents of the area believed that the U.S. helicopters were planning an air raid on the port. According to a Somali journalist, “The fishermen decided not to fish in the morning because of the helicopters; they are scared.” (Inside Somalia, April 13)

Behind the escalation in ‘piracy’

Over the last several months Somali pirates have alleged that European corporations are unloading toxic waste off the coast of this Horn of Africa nation. A Ukrainian ship which was held and released by the Somalis garnered a multimillion-dollar payment by the owners, which is reportedly being utilized to clean up the waste being dumped in the area.

In a statement reported by Al Jazeera on Oct. 11, 2008, Januna Ali Jama, a spokesperson for the Somali pirates, said that the ransom acquired serves as a means of “reacting to the toxic waste that has been

continually dumped on the shores of our country for nearly 20 years.”

Jama, who is based in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, continued, “The Somali coastline has been destroyed, and we believe this money is nothing compared to the devastation that we have seen on the seas.”

Further evidence of toxic waste dumping came from the United Nations envoy to Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, who told Al Jazeera in the same article that the international body has “reliable information” that both European and Asian corporations are unloading toxic chemicals, including nuclear waste, off the Somali coastline. “I must stress, however, that no government has endorsed this act and that private companies and individuals acting alone are responsible.”

In the aftermath of the tsunami in late 2004, evidence began to appear confirming such illegal dumping activity in the region. The United Nations Environment Program reported that the tsunmai washed up old, rusting containers of waste on the shores of Puntland, which was formerly part of Somalia prior to the collapse of the Western-backed government of Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991.

A UNEP spokesman, Nick Nuttall, told Al Jazeera in the same article that when the rusting barrels were opened by the force of the waves, dumping that had been occurring for many years were revealed. “Somalia has been used as a dumping ground for hazardous waste starting in the early 1990s, and continuing through the civil war there. European companies found it to be very cheap to get rid of the waste, costing as little as \$2.50 a ton, where waste disposal costs in Europe are something like \$1,000 a ton,” said Nuttall.

Nuttall went on to say that there are “many different kinds” of waste. “There is a uranium radioactive waste. There is lead, and heavy metals like cadmium and mercury. There is also industrial waste, and there are hospital wastes, chemical wastes—you name it.”

Since the containers have come to shore, there has been a sharp increase in various illnesses among the population, including such symptoms as oral and abdominal bleeding, skin infections and other ailments.

“We [the UNEP] had planned to do a proper, in-depth scientific assessment on the magnitude of the problem. But because of the high levels of insecurity onshore and off the Somali coast, we are unable to carry out an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem,” Nuttall continued.

Nonetheless, Ould-Abdallah said that the practice of illegal dumping of toxic waste continues in the region. “What is most alarming here is that nuclear waste is being dumped. Radioactive uranium waste is potentially killing Somalis and completely destroying the ocean.”

Mohammed Gure, chair of the Somalia Concerned Group, said in the same Al Jazeera article that the social and environmental impact of this toxic waste dumping will be felt for decades. “The Somali coastline used to sustain hundreds of

thousands of people, as a source of food and livelihoods. Now much of it is almost destroyed, primarily at the hands of these so-called ministers that have sold their nation to fill their own pockets.”

Other factors involved in the exploitation of Somalia are that the Gulf of Aden shipping lane transports billions of dollars of goods through the region every week. Almost none of these funds are utilized for the benefit of the Somali people, who are still suffering from underdevelopment resulting from U.S. interference in their internal affairs.

The U.S. administration under George W. Bush financed and engineered an invasion and occupation of the country by the Western-allied state of Ethiopia in December 2006. As a result of fierce resistance, the Ethiopian military withdrew from the country in January 2009. The formation of a new coalition government has failed to bring all the various political groupings into the regime.

Consequently, Ugandan and Burundian troops remain in the capital of Mogadishu under the auspices of the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). The leading resistance group, Al-Shabab, is continuing to demand the withdrawal of the AU forces before it agrees to enter the coalition government headed by President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed.

The fledging government in Mogadishu, which has been endorsed by the U.S., applauded the attack on the Somali pirates on April 12. “We are very happy at this action and the outcome,” said Foreign Minister Mohamad Abdullahi Omaar. “I am not surprised, nor will anyone be surprised, at the actions of the American government to save its citizens and ensure

the security of its people,” Omaar told Reuters. (April 13)

Recent reports coming out of the White House indicate that the Obama administration is divided over how to carry out its foreign policy in the Horn of Africa. Some elements want a more diplomatic approach to the problem of piracy as well as a concerted effort to bring more European and Asian nations into patrolling the waters in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

However, other advisers within the White House want to see a more direct U.S. military involvement on land and off the coast of Somalia. The recent incident involving the Maersk Alabama prompted the dispatching of additional warships to the Indian Ocean region. (Washington Post, April 12)

It is vital that anti-war and anti-imperialist forces in the United States emphasize that greater U.S. military involvement in the region will not create a more stable political situation in Somalia and throughout the Horn of Africa.

In fact, as history has proven, the role of U.S. imperialism in the Horn of Africa has created greater instability and underdevelopment in the region. As a result of the Bush administration policy toward Somalia, the worst humanitarian crisis on the continent of Africa came into existence.

During the present period, progressive forces must demand a shift away from militarism in the Horn of Africa and insist on the right of self-determination including reparations for the people of Somalia and the Horn of Africa as a whole.

Read more of this article at www.workers.org.

U.S. behind fraudulent election in Haiti

By G. Dunkel

The U.S. government has a new strategy to stop Jean-Bertrand Aristide and his Fanmi Lavalas party from winning elections in Haiti.

Keeping Aristide in exile and Fanmi Lavalas off the ballot in Haiti is easier than arranging another coup, like the two Washington administrations previously pulled off against Aristide.

Of course, the U.S. foreign policy operatives will never admit that this is U.S. policy. Even though it was U.S. security agents that forced President Aristide onto a U.S. plane on Feb. 29, 2004, and flew him to Africa.

Washington most certainly would disclaim having anything to do with the decisions of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) that denied Fanmi Lavalas, one of the major and most popular parties in Haiti, a chance to present candidates for the 12 vacant seats in the Haitian senate in elections whose first round is scheduled for April 19.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, in his statement on Haiti April 6 to the Security Council, insisted “on the necessity of holding free and fair elections, open to all, as part of the political stabilization of the country.” An African nonpermanent member of the Security Council expressed the hope that Fanmi Lavalas would participate in future elections.

The U.N. is going to spend \$16 million on the April 19 election—a vast sum for Haiti.

When Aristide’s second government did not count the votes in a senatorial election the way the U.S. thought they should be counted, the U.S. press echoed and re-echoed the State Department’s denunciation. It became one of the justifications for the second coup against him.

Fanmi Lavalas is calling for a boycott of the April 19 elections, which Romestil Melisca, a national coordinator of local Fanmi Lavalas organizations, characterized as preordained “selections.” (Haïti-Liberté, April 1-7) Melisca called on every Lavalasian to stay home and close their doors on April 19. Lavalas has also held a number of large demonstrations throughout the country demanding the return of Aristide, defending their right to participate in elections, and pointing to the hunger, misery and unemployment ravaging Haiti.

Other progressive groups in Haiti are pointing to the substantial technical difficulties already afflicting these elections. Local CEPs are in “total disorder” and are not really responding to the tens of thousands of people who lost their documents in last year’s hurricanes. (Haïti-Progress, March 25-31).

While Lavalas intends for Operation Closed Door to be peaceful and legal, the Haitian Press Network carried reports April 8 that indicate the government is preparing to blame a low turnout on April 19 on the threat of violence. Some past election boycotts in Haiti have been extremely successful. □

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Empresarios hablan de recuperación Pero l@s obrer@s pierden sus trabajos

Por Fred Goldstein

Cuando las señales de una posible recuperación económica hizo que el mercado de valores subiera por cuatro semanas consecutivas comenzando el 10 de marzo, está claro que la recuperación de la que se habló era una recuperación para l@s empresari@s y banquer@s, no para l@s trabajadores/as.

Tres cuartas partes de un millón de obrer@s perdieron sus empleos durante estas cuatro semanas, pero los financieros y especuladores estaban empujando el mercado basados en reportes de un incremento en la obtención de ganancias por los bancos y en un alza en la actividad en el mercado de bonos.

El 3 de abril, día en que el Departamento del Trabajo anunció que 663.000 trabajadores/as perdieron sus empleos en el mes de marzo, el mercado de valores de Dow Jones Industrial Average subió unos 49 puntos, coronando así el aumento en las cuatro semanas. Luego el mercado comenzó a descender nuevamente, basado en los reportes de un descenso en las ganancias corporativas.

Esto muestra claramente las diferencias sobre lo que significa la recuperación para Wall Street y lo que significa para l@s trabajadores/as. L@s empresari@s quieren ganancias más altas, mientras que l@s obrer@s lo que quieren son sus empleos, sus casas y su futuro. Esa es la razón por la cual la prensa capitalista puede hablar de señales de recuperación a la vez que el desempleo aumenta.

El desempleo verdadero es de 19,8 por ciento

De hecho, la prensa capitalista minimiza la verdadera cifra de desempleo para así esconder la extensión de la crisis entre l@s obrer@s. Según los titulares, el desempleo ha subido a un porcentaje oficial del 8,5 por ciento. Mucha menos publicidad se le da a la cifra del 15,6 por ciento — la otra cifra oficial — que incluye a l@s trabajadores/as desmoralizad@s por no encontrar empleo y aquell@s forzad@s a tomar un empleo a tiempo parcial pese a que lo que necesitaban era uno de tiempo completo.

Tomando estos porcentajes en consideración, l@s desemplead@s y subemplead@s, suman 24 millones y no 13,2. Pero aún esta cifra es una grotesca subestimación de la verdadera crisis de desempleo.

Un reporte publicado por Martin Weiss, un consultor financiero, revela que las cifras de “obrer@s desalentad@s” están completamente minimizadas. (money-andmarkets.com, 6 de abril) Weiss cita las investigaciones de John Williams de ShadowStats.com: “Durante la administración de Clinton, “l@s obrer@s desalentad@s” “aquell@s que se han dado por vencid@ por no encontrar trabajo” fueron redefinid@s para que solo fueran contad@s si habían estado “desalentad@s” por menos de un año. Esto...aclaró la lista de la mayoría de l@s obrer@s desalentad@s.”

En otras palabras, un/a trabajador/a que ha estado desalentad@ por más de un año, desaparece totalmente de las estadísticas de desempleo. Basado en esto, Williams estima que la cifra real de desempleo es de 19,8 por ciento o sea, cerca de 30 millones.

La posibilidad de una pronta recuperación capitalista es poco probable, tomando en consideración que la manufactura va cuesta abajo, no solo en Estados Unidos, sino mundialmente. Aún l@s expert@s burgueses/as más optimistas esperan una caída económica en la economía y un incremento en el número de desemplead@s de por lo menos medio millón al mes en un futuro cercano. De hecho, no hay un/a economista que pueda señalar un sendero a seguir para salir de esta crisis.

En el mejor de los casos, la esperanza es que la inyección masiva de fondos gubernamentales a los bancos, más el otro paquete de estímulo más allá del paquete de \$787 mil millones ya legislados, puedan disminuir la crisis y estabilizar el sistema durante los próximos dos años.

Pero un punto importante que debe recordar la clase trabajadora, l@s oprimid@s, y todas las fuerzas progresistas y revolucionarias es el hecho de que hasta una recuperación capitalista mod-

esta y forzada basada en infusiones del gobierno todavía dejaría en crisis a l@s trabajadores/as.

La más grande de todas las recuperaciones sin empleos

La clase trabajadora está atrapada en un sistema capitalista que está en crisis permanente. Por ejemplo, un artículo en el periódico Wall Street Journal del 28 de marzo habló de que hay señales de que se había alcanzado el final de la recesión. El artículo consideró varias declaraciones de banqueros e índices estadísticos del gobierno que pueden señalar una vuelta hacia el “crecimiento positivo”, lo que significa una mejora económica capitalista con incremento de ganancias. En parte dijo:

“Pero una vuelta hacia el crecimiento positivo no es igual que una recuperación, particularmente con la tasa actual de un 8,1 por ciento de desempleo, el más alto en un cuarto de un siglo y subiendo a niveles más altos cada mes. Nariman Behravesh, el economista en jefe de HIS Global Insight ... dice que el desempleo puede alcanzar un 10,5 por ciento a finales del próximo año, aún si la economía crece a una tasa del 3 por ciento.

“‘Lo que viene luego me temo, será la más grande de todas las recuperaciones sin empleo’, dijo Bernard Baumohl, economista en jefe del Grupo Economic Outlook de Princeton, NJ. ‘Aunque salgamos de la recesión desde el punto de vista estadístico a finales de este año, la mayoría de los americanos tendrá dificultad al distinguir entre recesión y recuperación durante los próximos 12 meses’.”

Desde luego, los expertos capitalistas no pueden predecir, y nunca han podido predecir con ningún grado de certeza, cómo va a funcionar la economía al largo plazo. L@s marxistas, conociendo las contradicciones del capitalismo, sabiendo que el consumo no puede mantenerse al mismo nivel de la producción por ganancias bajo el capitalismo, entienden que la sobreproducción y la crisis son inevitables. Esta es la clase de crisis que está creando destrucción para l@s trabajadores/as alrededor del mundo en una gran escala desde la Gran Depresión. Entonces toda discusión sobre una recuperación es muy prematura.

Por ejemplo, hoy en los EEUU la crucial industria automovilística, que es central para la economía nacional, puede vender obteniendo ganancias, solo la mitad de la cantidad de autos que tiene capacidad de producir. La falta de ventas significa falta de ganancias. La falta de ganancias significa el cierre de la producción. Esto significa despidos, la destrucción de fábricas, más pobreza, menos ventas y la profundización de la crisis.

Lo mismo ocurre en la industria de la vivienda. Millones de casas no pueden venderse obteniendo ganancias mientras se multiplican las poblaciones de tiendas de campaña donde vive gente desamparada. La industria de la vivienda, como la industria automotriz, afecta a todos los sectores de la economía. La crisis hipotecaria, por la cual millones han perdido sus casas, significa no solamente un incremento en el número de gente sin techo, sino una subida del desempleo entre tod@s l@s trabajadores/as afectad@s

por el colapso de la construcción de viviendas.

Como el capitalismo ha creado un proceso interconectado y esparcido de producción, una red de producción verdaderamente global, cada despido en una industria principal fomenta despidos por toda la red global que depende de esas industrias. Por eso el desempleo está subiendo tanto en los Estados Unidos como en el resto del mundo. El Banco Mundial estima que hasta 50 millones de trabajadores/as podrían perder su empleo este año.

L@s trabajadores/as solo pueden recuperarse luchando

Nada de esto es una receta para la recuperación capitalista — todo lo contrario. La clase trabajadora no puede esperar a que los procesos automáticos del capitalismo se revivan, rescaten la situación, y eliminen el desempleo, la pobreza y el hambre.

Ahora mismo l@s trabajadores/as en Enfield, Gran Bretaña, y Belfast, Irlanda, han ocupado la fábrica de partes de automóvil Visteon, para demandar la indemnización por el cese del empleo y otros derechos. Esta sigue a otra ocupación semejante por l@s trabajadores/as de Waterford Crystal en Irlanda quienes estaban siguiendo el ejemplo de l@s trabajadores/as de Republic Windows and Doors que ocuparon su fábrica en Chicago el pasado diciembre.

Las acciones de la clase trabajadora, la capacidad de actuar por sus propios intereses, al organizar desde el nivel de base para resistir esta ola enorme de despidos, recortes de turnos, recortes de horas de trabajo, al igual que el resistir los desahucios y las evicciones, es la única manera de proceder hacia adelante.

El grito de combate “¡El trabajo es un derecho!” debe ser alzado por todos lados y así detener a los dueños empresariales.

Debe haber movilizaciones masivas y luchas coordinadas por una alianza entre las comunidades oprimidas y empobrecidas y l@s trabajadores/as para detener el cierre de fábricas y prevenir que los empresarios puedan irse dejando a las comunidades y en el proceso destruyendo tantas vidas.

Cada centavo de los millones de millones de dólares para los bancos debe ser puesto para aliviar el sufrimiento económico del pueblo creando un verdadero programa gubernamental de empleos con sueldos sostenibles y con beneficios — no solamente las migajas ofrecidas después de que los capitalistas hayan dividido el dinero del paquete de estímulo entre ellos y hayan extraído sus ganancias.

Esta es la única manera de echar la crisis a dónde debe estar, en las espaldas de los acaparadores ricos y quitarla de las espaldas de la clase trabajadora y de l@s oprimid@s.

Ellos crearon esta crisis. Ellos deben pagar. ¡Rescatar al pueblo, no a los bancos!

Goldstein es el escritor de “Low-Wage Capitalism (Capitalismo de Bajos Salarios).” Se puede encontrar información sobre el libro en: www.lowwagecapitalism.com. Se puede enviar correspondencia electrónica a Goldstein@workers.org.

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